Floating of tenders for leasing of Airports

5331. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently floated tenders for leasing out the airport in the country;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions of the tender;

(c) the details of offers received in response to the tender; and

(d) by then the process of leasing out the airports is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Losses suffered by IA

5332. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines made a loss of Rs. 35 crores in the first six months of the current financial year, as against last years turn-around profit of Rs. 47 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "The Great Indian Airline's rope trick losses turn profit in paper" published in the Indian Express dated the 20th January, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details of the fictitious account to show profit on papers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indian Airlines Ltd. follows Accounting Standards (AS) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The account of Indian

Airlines are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Audit verifications of the accounts is carried out by a full fledged Internal Audit Department through-out the year. The accounts of the Company are also audited by the Statutory Auditors, appointed by the Comptroller General of Accounts, and the Government Audit. These are outside agencies which submit their reports to the shareholders and CAG's Office.

Air Lanka flights from Hyderabad

5333. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Air Lanka has expressed its willingness to operate some of its flights from the Hyderabad Airport; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the Inter-Governmental talks held in February, 2000, the Government of Sri Lanka had requested for Hyderabad as a point of call for their designated airline. Since Hyderabad Airport was at that time not an international airport, the request could not be considered.

Fare increase by AI on Gulf Sector

5334. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Air India increased the fare to the Gulf countries from Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for this abnormal increase and continuous overcharging on Kerala passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the action of Air India to increase the fare on this sector forced other foreign airlines to increase the fare; and

(d) the steps taken to check the Air India for these kinds of action?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The fares from India to Gulf countries have been increased by Air India by 10.25% with effect from 1.4.2000. The increase is based on IATA Resolutions to which all operating airlines are parties. The increase in fare is applicable from all points in India and not only from Kerala.